

VENEZUELA:

Perez Perez, Santiago
Perez Perozo, Victor Manuel

State Dept. declassification instructions on file

SECRET

PEREZ, Santiago

VENEZUELA

Counselor of Delegation

A career member of the Foreign Office staff, Pérez was born in 1910 and obtained a law degree from the Central University in Caracas. He has been Chief of the Divisions of Protocol, Inter-American Affairs, International Policy and, presently, International Organizations. He has also attended several international gatherings, including the San Francisco Conference, 1945; the Rio Conference, 1947; and the third session of the U. N. General Assembly, Paris, 1948. At this latter meeting he became Chief of the Venezuelan Delegation when a coup d'état back home brought about the dismissal of the original chief, Foreign Minister Blanco.

In 1946 Pérez was detailed to accompany President Betancourt on a trip to Mexico and Central America. A short time later, the Mexican government conferred on Pérez the Order of the Aztec Eagle.

He is considered a conscientious, hard worker, cooperative, but very exacting. U. S. officials who have had occasion to deal with him describe him as extremely discreet and careful never to express a point of view different from that of his superiors, a characteristic which he seems to have kept through the years. His attitude has always been pro-United States, and he is known to have no patience with leftists. A strong believer in the inter-American system, he is also an advocate of international cooperation on a world-wide scale.

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BS 49
March 16, 1951

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Division of Biographic InformationPEREZ Perozo, Victor ManuelVENEZUELAPersonal data: Born Pueblo Viejo, State of Trujillo, December 18, 1898;
married to an Ecuadoran, four children.Languages: EnglishCareer:

- c.1933-1943 Civil Attaché, Secretary, and Counselor, Quito.
- 1943-1945 Counselor of Legation and Chargé d'Affairs, San José, Costa Rica.
- 1946 Counselor of Delegation, UN General Assembly, second part of first session, New York, October.
- 1947 Counselor of Delegation, fourth meeting of ECOSOC, New York, February;
Alternate delegate, UN General Assembly, second session, New York, September.
- 1948-date Alternate Permanent Representative to UN;
Delegate, seventh session of ECOSOC, Geneva, July;
Alternate delegate, UN General Assembly, first part of third session, Paris, September.
- 1949 Delegate, UN General Assembly, second part of third session, New York, April;
Delegate, ninth meeting of ECOSOC, Geneva, July;
Delegate, UN General Assembly, fourth session, New York, September.
- 1950 Observer, eleventh meeting of UNESCO, Geneva, July;
Delegate, UN General Assembly, ~~Document No. 1166, session, New York,~~
~~Review of this document by CIA has~~
~~determined that~~
☒ CIA has no objection to declass
it contains information of CIA
interest that must remain
classified at TS S G
Authority: HR 70-2
☐ It contains nothing of CIA interest
Date 1/16/87 Reviewer 06/1/89

Remarks:

Perez Perozo was Chargé d'Affairs in Costa Rica at the time of the fall of the Venezuelan Government in October 1945. When the new administration appointed a superior officer to that post, he resigned from the service and retired to private life. 1/ However, a year later he accepted an appointment to the first session of the UN General Assembly and thereafter became a perennial delegate to the GA and specialized agency meetings. In 1948 he was appointed Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, a post which he still holds.

He soon developed a knack for independent action in UN affairs even when his stand played into the hands of the Soviet delegates, offering as justification for his actions the explanation that directives from his Foreign Office committed him to uphold Venezuela's interests while endeavoring to act as a conciliatory instrument in the East-West conflict. 2/ Further reports indicated that he appeared to be basing his arguments on what he sincerely considered the best interests of his country, not jumping blindly on the Soviet bandwagon. At one point he seems to have corroborated this appraisal in a private conversation by expressing his belief in the danger of Soviet penetration in the Middle East. 3/, 4/

An observerCONFIDENTIAL

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PEREZ Perozo, Victor Manuel (continued)

VENEZUELA

Remarks (continued):

An observer who frequently dealt with Perez Perozo at the Paris meeting of the General Assembly in 1948, characterized him as obstinate and stupid. 5/ Still another described him as bureaucratic, voluble, long-winded and extremely dull. 3/ Most observers agreed, however, that although he was uncooperative in the matter of votes, he was friendly to the U.S. 3/, 6/

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September 26, 1950

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- 1/ Biographic Data Report, Caracas, September 27, 1946 (Confidential).
 - 2/ USUN Report A/268, November 19, 1948 (Secret).
 - 3/ Department of State Memorandum, January 24, 1949 (Confidential).
 - 4/ T. 760, USUN, New York, June 15, 1948 (Secret).
 - 5/ Department of State Memorandum, December 8, 1948 (Confidential).
 - 6/ Department of State Memorandum, May 16, 1949 (Confidential).

Distribution:

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